

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

**Supplemental Statement****Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**For 6 Month Period Ending 09/30/2020

(Insert date)

**I - REGISTRANT**

## 1. (a) Name of Registrant

Thomas Capitol Partners, Inc.

## (b) Registration Number

5982

## (c) Primary Business Address

1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036

## 2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

## (a) If an individual:

(1) Residence address(es) Yes ☐ No ☐(2) Citizenship Yes ☐ No ☐(3) Occupation Yes ☐ No ☐

## (b) If an organization:

(1) Name Yes ☐ No ☒(2) Ownership or control Yes ☐ No ☒(3) Branch offices Yes ☐ No ☒

## (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

**IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSES TO ITEMS 3, 4, 5, AND 6.**3. If the registrant previously filed an Exhibit C<sup>1</sup>, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period. Yes ☐ No ☐If yes, has the registrant filed an updated Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, please file the updated Exhibit C.

<sup>1</sup> The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

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4. (a) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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## (b) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Ceased
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5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(a) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

Name	Foreign Principal(s) Represented	Services
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(b) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Date Terminated
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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been previously filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement or submitted with this filing? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not previously filed the required statement or are not submitting a short form with this filing.

**II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL**


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7. Has the registrant's connection with any foreign principal(s) ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

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8. Has the registrant added any new foreign principal(s)<sup>2</sup> during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date Added

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9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list the foreign principal(s) whom the registrant continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Embassy of the Republic of Korea

Korea International Trade Association

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10. (a) Has the registrant filed Exhibits A and B for the newly added foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A<sup>3</sup>Yes ☒No ☐N/A ☐Exhibit B<sup>4</sup>Yes ☒No ☐N/A ☐

If no, please file the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal(s) whom the registrant represented during this 6 month period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, has the registrant filed an amendment to these exhibits?

Yes ☐No ☐

If no, please file the required amendment.

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<sup>2</sup> The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

<sup>3</sup> The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3, sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

<sup>4</sup> The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4, sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

**III - ACTIVITIES**

11. During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail all activities and services:

Foreign Principal	Activities/Services
Please see attached exhibit.	

12. During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant, on behalf of any foreign principal, engaged in political activity<sup>5</sup> as defined below? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures, social media, internet postings, or media broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter. The response must include, but not be limited to, activities involving lobbying, promotion, perception management, public relations, economic development, and preparation and dissemination of informational materials.

Set forth below a general description of the registrant's political activities.

Please see attached exhibit.

Set forth below in the required detail the registrant's political activities.

Foreign Principal	Date	Contact	Method	Purpose
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13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, has the registrant engaged in activity or rendered any services on its own behalf which benefits the registrant's foreign principal(s)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

Foreign Principal	Activities/Services
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<sup>5</sup> "Political activity," as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act, means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

**IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION****14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, please explain why no monies were received.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.<sup>6</sup>

Foreign Principal	Date Received	From Whom	Purpose	Amount	Subtotal
Embassy of the Republic of Korea	04/01/2020 to 09/30/2020		Retainer Fee and Expenses	\$270,000.00	
Korea International Trade Association	04/01/2020 to 09/30/2020		Retainer Fee and Expenses	\$70,800.00	
				\$340,800.00	
					<u>Total</u>

**(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant received, as part of a fundraising campaign<sup>7</sup>, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, has the registrant previously filed an Exhibit D<sup>8</sup> to its registration? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date \_\_\_\_\_

If no, please file the required Exhibit D.

**(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant received any thing of value<sup>9</sup> other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	From Whom	Purpose	Thing of Value
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he/she collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

**15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement or transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why no disbursements were made.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Foreign Principal	Date	Recipient	Purpose	Amount	Subtotal
Embassy of the Republic of Korea	04/01/2020 to 09/30/2020		Office operation and equipment expenses, business meals and entertainment, travel and lodging, transportation, professional development, subscriptions, computer and Internet and local and long distance communication.	Various	
Korea International Trade Association	04/01/2020 to 09/30/2020		Office operation and equipment expenses, business meals and entertainment, travel and lodging, transportation, professional development, subscriptions, computer and Internet and local and long distance communication.	Various	

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Total

**(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant disposed of anything of value<sup>10</sup> other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date	Recipient	Purpose	Thing of Value
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**(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant (or any short form registrant) from its own funds and on its own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value<sup>11</sup> in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Donor	Political Organization/Candidate	Method	Amount/Thing of Value
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10, 11 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

**V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant prepared, disseminated or caused to be disseminated any informational materials?<sup>12</sup> Yes ☐ No ☒

(b) If yes, identify each such foreign principal for which informational materials were disseminated and respond to the remaining items in this section.

17. During this 6 month reporting period, has a budget been established or specified sum of money allocated to finance the registrant's activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, and specify the period of time and the amount.

Foreign Principal	Period of Time	Amount
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18. During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant's activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials included the use of any of the following:

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper               | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns  | <input type="checkbox"/> Press releases       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches                | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email                    |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website URL(s): _____               |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media websites URL(s): _____ |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____               |   |   |  |

19. During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant prepared, disseminated, or caused to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public officials       | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input type="checkbox"/> Editors                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agencies    | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____  |   |   |

20. Indicate the language used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

21. Has the registrant filed with the FARA Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials prepared, disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, please file the required informational materials.

22. Has the registrant labeled each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes ☒ No ☐

12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

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**VI - EXECUTION**

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and subject to the penalties of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 22 U.S.C. § 618, the undersigned swears or affirms under penalty of perjury that he/she has read the information set forth in this statement filed pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, that he/she is familiar with the contents thereof, and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Date	Printed Name	Signature <sup>13</sup>	eSigned
October 02, 2020	Thomas Sung-Hoon Kim	/s/ Thomas Sung-Hoon Kim	

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<sup>13</sup> This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

**FOR SIX-MONTH SUPPLEMENTAL FILING PERIOD: 04/01/2020 to 09/30/2020**

THOMAS CAPITOL PARTNERS, INC.

1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 500

Washington, DC 20036

Registration Number: 5982

**ATTACHMENT****Item 11: During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?**

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

-Provided strategic consultation, public relations advisory and lobbying services related issues to the U.S.-Korea General Bilateral Alliance (GBA).

KOREA INTERNATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION

-Provided strategic consultation and public relations advisory services related to U.S.-Korea trade, investment and economic issues.

**Item 12: During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity as defined below?**

Meetings and/or contacts with Members and/or staff of the following offices of the U.S. House of Representatives:

Babin, Brian	Gaetz, Matt	Reed, Tom
Barr, Andy	Garamendi, John	Rensenthaler, Guy
Barragan, Nanette	Gomez, Jimmy	Roe, Phil
Bass, Karen	Gonzalez, Vincente	Ruppersberger, Dutch
Bera, Ami	Green, Mark	Rush, Bobby
Bernice Johnson, Eddie	Hagedorn, Jim	Panetta, Jimmy
Beyer, Don	Hastings, Alcee	Pascrell, Bill, Jr.
Bilirakis, Gus	Hern, Kevin	Pelosi, Nancy
Bishop, Mike	Harris, Andy	Perry, Scott
Boyle, Brendan	Himes, Jim	Posey, Bill
Brady, Kevin	Holding, George	Rensenthaler, Guy
Brooks, Mo	Houlahan, Chrissy	Rice, Kathleen
Brown, Anthony	Hoyer, Steny	Richmond, Cedric
Buck, Ken	Huffman, Jared	Rogers, Mike

Burgess, Michael	Gallego, Ruben	Rush, Bobby
Capuano, Michael	Jackson-Lee, Sheila	Sablan, Gregorio
Carbajal, Salud	Jeffries, Hakeem	Scalise, Steve
Cardenas, Tony	Johnson, Bill	Schakowsky, Janice
Carter, Buddy	Johnson, Hank	Schiff, Adam
Castro, Joaquin	Kaptur, Marcy	Schneider, Brad
Chabot, Steve	Kelly, Mike	Scott, Austin
Chu, Judy	Kelly, Robin	Sewell, Terri
Cicillini, David	Khanna, Ro	Sherman, Brad
Cisneros, Gil	Kim, Andy	Sires, Albio
Clark, Katherine	Kinzinger, Adam	Smith, Adam
Cleaver, Emanuel	LaHood, Darin	Smith, Chris
Clyburn, Jim	Lamb, Conor	Smucker, Lloyd
Cohen, Steve	Lamborn, Doug	Spanberger, Abigail
Collins, Doug	Larson, John	Speier, Jackie
Conaway, Mike	Lawrence, Brenda	Steil, Bryan
Connolly, Gerald	Lee, Barbara	Steube, Greg
Crist, Charles	Lewis, Jason	Stewart, Chris
Cuellar, Henry	Lieu, Ted	Suozzi, Tom
Cummings, Elijah	Long, Billy	Takano, Mark
Cunningham, Joe	Lujan, Ben	Taylor, Van
Curtis, John	Maloney, Carolyn	Thompson, Glenn
Davis, Danny	Marino, Tom	Tipton, Scott
Davis, Rodney	Mast, Brian	Titus, Dina
Davis, Susan	Matsui, Doris	Trone, David
Delbene, Suzan	McCarthy, Kevin	Trott, Dave
Doggett, Lloyd	McCaul, Michael	Visclosky, Pete
Duncan, Jeff	Meeks, Gregory	Wagner, Ann
Engel, Eliot L.	Meng, Grace	Walden, Greg
Español, Adriano	Miller, Carol	Walorski, Jackie
Evans, Dwight	Moore, Gwen	Wexton, Jennifer
Ferguson, Drew	Murphy, Stephanie	Wilson, Joe
Fortenberry, Jeff	Norman, Ralph	Womack, Steve
Fitzpatrick, Brian	Nunes, Devin	Woodall, Rob
Frankel, Lois	Perry, Scott	Wright, Ron
Gabbard, Tulsi	Quigley, Mike	Yoho, Ted
Gaetz, Matt	Ratliffe, John	
Gallagher, Mike	Rouda, Harley	

Meetings and/or contacts with Members and/or staff of the following offices of the United States Senate:

Barrasso, John	Heinrich, Martin	Risch, James
Blackburn, Marsha	Hirono, Mazie	Rounds, Mike

Blunt, Roy	Inhofe, James	Rubio, Marco
Booker, Cory	Isakson, Johnny	Sasse, Ben
Boozman, John	Jones, Doug	Schatz, Brian
Cardin, Benjamin	Kaine, Tim	Schumer, Charles
Coons, Chris	King, Angus	Scott, Tim
Cornyn, John	Klobuchar, Amy	Scott, Rick
Cotton, Tom	Manchin, Joe	Shaheen, Jeanne
Crapo, Mike	Markey, Ed	Sullivan, Daniel
Duckworth, Tammy	Merkley, Jeff	Tillis, Thom
Durbin, Richard	McCain, John	Toomey, Pat
Ernst, Joni	Menendez, Robert	Udall, Tom
Feinstein, Dianne	Murphy, Chris	Warren, Elizabeth
Gardner, Cory	Murkowski, Lisa	Warner, Mark
Harris, Kamala	Perdue, David	Wicker, Roger
Hassan, Maggie	Portman, Rob	Young, Todd

Meetings and/or contacts with Members and/or staff of the following House Congressional Committees:

House Committee on Appropriations  
House Committee on Armed Services  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House Committee on Ethics  
House Committee on Financial Services  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
House Committee on House Administration  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
House Committee on Rules  
House Committee on Ways and Means

Meetings and/or contacts with Members and/or staff of the following Senate Congressional Committees:

Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

**Item 15(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions to Political Committees during Reporting Period:

Rep. Ruben Gallego                \$250

Rep. Grace Meng                \$250

Rep. Eliot Engel                \$250

**Item 19: Disseminating Informational Material**

- Informational material in the public interest related to COVID-19 global pandemic.

**//End of Attachment//**

# **Management of the 21<sup>st</sup> General Election during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Korea**

## **1 Voting Process**

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### **□ Early Voting**

- Voters not able to vote on Election Day (April 15, 2020, 6:00 am - 6:00 pm) could vote at the nearest early polling stations without reporting, from two to five days prior to Election Day (April 10-11, 2020, 6:00 am - 6:00 pm)
  - ✓ Voters could vote at any of the early polling stations, which had been installed in every district across the nation, regardless of their address
- A total of 3,508 early polling stations were installed and operated across the nation (3,484 stations at the district level and an additional 24 stations [16 stations in areas where military bases are concentrated and 8 stations at residential treatment facilities])

### **□ Regular Voting**

- Voters could vote at the designated polling station within their area of resident registration, installed in every voting district, on Election Day
- A total of 14,330 polling stations were installed and operated across

the nation

☐ Voting Procedure

- ① Voters wore a mask to the polling station
- ② Voters kept at least 1 meter distance from others in the vicinity of the polling station
- ③ The polling station staff checked all voters for fever at the entrance of the polling station
- ④ Asymptomatic voters utilized hand sanitizer and wore vinyl gloves prior to entering the polling station
- ⑤ For identification purposes, polling station staff instructed voters to lower their masks briefly
  - ✓ Voters refusing to follow instructions were not allowed to vote, except for those identifiable even with their masks on
- ⑥ While wearing the gloves, voters signed the identification form, received the ballot paper, marked the ballot paper, and placed it inside the ballot box
- ⑦ Voters placed their gloves into the provided bin prior to leaving the polling station



## 2 Preventive Measures Within the Polling Stations

### □ Keeping Distance

- Signs and equipment for keeping at least 1 meter distance between voters



### □ Epidemic Control Measures

#### A. Principles

- Disinfection to be scheduled before and after voting, and after the first

day of early voting

- Disinfection immediately after the installation of the polling station, and to be finished six hours prior to the operation of the facility on Election Day
- Disinfection immediately after voting
  - Prioritized disinfection for facilities in operation the next day (e.g. community centers, schools, etc.)
- Nighttime disinfection to shorten the disinfection period

## **B. Disinfection Methods**

- Disinfection to be carried out in the vicinity of the polling station, hallways, and public spaces like restrooms and elevators
- Disinfecting bioaerosols in the vicinity of the polling stations using ultra-low volume sprayers, and disinfecting surface-dwelling viruses in entrances and elevators using electro-compressor sprayers
- Using disinfectants approved by the Ministry of Environment which allow safe operation of facilities within six hours of disinfection
- No admittance to the polling station subsequent to disinfection until voting begins
- Utilization of the polling station allowed after sufficient ventilation

## **☐ Temperature Check**

- Polling station staff checked all voters for fever at the entrance of the polling station
- Voters with a temperature below 37.5 degrees Celsius and no respiratory symptoms were ushered to the polling stations
- Voters with a temperature above 37.5 degrees Celsius or respiratory symptoms were ushered to temporary polling booths

### 3 Voting Process for Infected People

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#### **□ Home Voting**

- Home voting is a system that allowed voters who were unable to move freely due to a serious physical disability or who had been admitted to a hospital, sanatorium, or detention center, to vote from their place of residence. After registering for home voting (registration period: March 24-28, 2020), voters received ballot papers from the local Election Commission.
- Procedure: Instructions for home voting by National Election Commission [NEC] and local government) → Voter registration → Eligibility check → Ballot paper delivery → Home voting → Returning the voting ballot by mail → Vote counting

## **☐ Voting at Special Early Polling Stations**

### **A. Operating period and eligible voters**

- Operating period: one-day operation during early voting period (April 10-11) for each residential treatment facility, and for 4-8 hours according to the number of voters
- Eligible voters: patients confirmed with COVID-19 in residential treatment facilities and the facilities' medical and supporting staff.

### **B. Voting procedure**

- ① Voters went to early polling stations individually, following broadcasted instructions or polling station staff, to prevent patients confirmed with COVID-19 from overlapping
- ② Patients confirmed with COVID-19 wore masks before entering the polling station, use hand sanitizer, and wear vinyl gloves
- ③ Voters presented identification, signed an identification form, received a ballot paper, and marked the ballot paper at the polling booth
  - ✓ For identification purposes, voters used the provided pen with gloves on. Voters were prohibited from using the automatic finger printer scanner.
- ④ Voters placed the ballot paper inside the voting envelope, sealed

the envelope, inserted the envelope into the ballot box, placed the gloves into the provided bin, and returned to their rooms

- ⑤ The polling staff was responsible for making sure the patients confirmed with COVID-19 did not overlap while voting and instructing each voter to wait while the previous voter was voting
- ⑥ Early voting ballot boxes were handed over to the post office after counting the number of returned envelopes under the presence of an election observer

### **C. Installation and management personnel**

- Discussion with facilities personnel to have voters not overlap and have the facility installed where there was sufficient ventilation (outdoors, mostly)
- For each of the early polling stations, one early voting supervisor (from the NEC), four polling station staff (two from the NEC and two from each of the facilities), and more than two observers were dispatched



#### 4 Voting System for People in Self-quarantine

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##### □ Eligibility

- People in close contact with patients confirmed with COVID-19 and people who had returned from being abroad and were restricted to move until Election Day (April 15), and voters who had been notified of self-quarantine (for 14 days) from the local government (health center) during the period of April 1 until 6:00 pm of April 14
- Asymptomatic people who were quarantined in an area less than 30 minutes away from the polling station, had the right to vote, and intended to vote on Election Day
- ✓ Voting was allowed only if the travel time from the quarantined location to the polling

station was less than 30 minutes by car (without other passengers) or on foot (without using public transportation)

## ☐ **Advance Preparation**

- The local government official in charge of self-quarantining informed the applicant via text messages of the time allowed for temporary outings (April 15, 5:20-7:00 pm), arrival time at polling stations, and waiting areas
- Upon arrival at the polling station before 6:00 pm on Election Day, the voter in self-quarantine received a numbered ticket from the staff and waited to be summoned
- After the closing of the polls, the temporary polling booth was installed in a well-ventilated place or outdoors, while polling station staff at the booth wore personal protective gear 10 minutes prior to the closing of the poll
- ✓ Personal protective equipment: Type 4 protective clothing, face shields, masks, surgical gloves, and shoe covers

## ☐ **Voting Procedure**

- ① After the regular voters finished voting and had left the premises, the self-quarantined voters with their electoral register, ballot paper, and temporary ballot envelope was accompanied by the designated observer to the temporary polling booth

- ② The polling station staff, with the assistance of the support staff, ushered the self-quarantined voters to the temporary polling booth, individually, according to the number on their tickets
- ③ The self-quarantined voter used hand sanitizer and wore vinyl gloves prior to entering the temporary polling booth (no fever check)
- ④ The polling station staff at the temporary polling booth checked for identification and instructed the voter to sign and seal the electoral register
- ⑤ The polling station staff provided a ballot paper and temporary polling booth envelope to the self-quarantined voter, and instructed the voter to go to the temporary polling booth
  - At the temporary polling booth, the staff sanitized items which were in contact with the self-quarantined voter, such as pens, with sanitizing tissue
- ⑥ After voting, the self-quarantined voter put the ballot paper inside the envelope and gave it to the temporary polling booth staff. Then, the voter placed the gloves inside the provided bin and departed after using the hand sanitizer
  - The staff at the temporary polling station sanitized the polling booth and the polling instruments with sanitizing tissue, every time a voter

finishes voting

- ⑦ When all self-quarantined voters finished voting, the staff at the temporary polling booth transported the temporary polling booth envelopes, ballot papers, and the electoral register to the polling station with the election observers
- ⑧ The staff at the temporary polling booth took out the ballot papers from the envelopes and placed them inside the ballot box under the presence of the election supervisor and election observer, while paying special attention not to disclose the ballot papers
- ⑨ The staff at the temporary polling booth took off their personal protective equipment and discarded them into a disposal box



Voters waiting



Voting

## 5 Disinfecting Supplies

### □ Disinfecting Supplies

- Masks (general/medical use), hand sanitizers, contactless thermometers, sanitizing tissues, medical gloves, vinyl gloves, face shields, Type 4

protective clothing, and temporary polling station envelopes

## □ Distribution Guidelines for Disinfecting Supplies

### ○ Masks (3,000,000 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City/province: 800 each</li> <li>• District("Gu/Si/Gun"): For the day before election day (varied proportionately to the number of voters)</li> <li>• Smaller District("Eup/Myeon/Dong"): For distributing campaign materials - according to the number of households less than 2,500: 10 / less than 5,000: 15 less than 7,500: 25 / less than 10,000: 30 less than 12,500: 35 / 12,500 or over: 40</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For operation room for counting station</li> <li>• For people who participated in sending home voting ballot papers, voting management training, and simulation tests for ballot distributors</li> <li>• For actual workers including administrators, clerks, and day laborers</li> </ul>
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Two each per polling station staff, 1.5 each per observer</b></li> <li>• Temporary polling booth*: Number of early voters in the 7th local election × 5% (approx.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Reserved amount for temporary polling booth: Only provided to symptomatic voters or, in rare cases, voters concerned with the spread of COVID-19</li> </ul>
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the number of voters less than 100,000: 450 / less than 200,000: 700 less than 300,000: 1,000 / less than 400,000: 1,200 400,000 or over: 1,600</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For NEC members and staff, counting staff, counting observers, etc.</li> </ul>

### ○ Hand sanitizer (286,725 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thirty each per city/province and district("Gu/Si/Gun")</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For training, public service etc.</li> </ul>
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Twenty eight each per early polling station</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For voters: 12 × two days (Assumed early voter turnout of 23%, assumed amount of use: 4ml per voter)</li> <li>- For early polling clerks: two × two days (Assumed amount of use: 50ml per early polling staff or observer)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For voting management</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Twelve per polling station</b></li> <li>- For voters: 10 (Assumed voter turnout of 37%, assumed amount of use: 4ml per voter)</li> <li>- For polling clerks: two (Assumed amount of use: 50ml per counting staff or observer)</li> </ul>	
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approximately 35 in average</b></li> <li>: Varied proportionately to the number of counting staff (Assumed amount of use: 50ml per counting staff or observer)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For counting management</li> </ul>

○ Thermometers (20,730 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four each per city/province and district("Gu/Si/Gun")</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For training, public service etc.</li> </ul>
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One-two each</b></li> <li>- Reusing the ones used at the early polling station for the polling station on the election day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For voting management</li> </ul>
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reusing the ones distributed to the district("Gu/Si/Gun")</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For counting management</li> </ul>

○ Sanitizing tissues (315,381 packs in total / 75 sheets per pack)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible adjustment within the total amount of distribution according to city/province</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For sanitizing election supplies and equipment</li> </ul>
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Twenty four packs each per early polling station</b> (Assumed early voter turnout of 23%, one per voter × 0.8 × two days)</li> <li>• <b>Ten packs each per polling station</b> (Assumed voter turnout of 37%, one per voter × 0.8)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For sanitizing polling station supplies and temporary polling booth</li> </ul>
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately eight packs in average</li> <li>: Varied proportionately to the number of counting staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For sanitizing counting station supplies and equipment</li> </ul>

○ Medical gloves (26,350 packs in total / 100 sheets per pack / Sizes S, M, L)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible adjustment within the total amount of distribution according to city/province</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For public service staff</li> </ul>
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>One hundred each per early polling station</b> [Two per one set for early voting supervisor and staff × two times + reserved amount]</li> <li><b>Fifty each per polling station</b> [Two per one set for voting supervisor and staff × two times + reserved amount]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For voting supervisors and staff</li> </ul>
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately <b>1,000 in average</b>: Varied proportionate to the number of counting staffs (One set per counting staff × two times + reserved amount)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For counting staff</li> </ul>

○ Single-use vinyl gloves (1,256,300 packs in total / 50 sheets per pack)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Early polling station</b>: Number of early voters in the 7th local election × two × 1.2</li> <li><b>Polling station</b>: Number of voters for each polling stations in the 7th local election × 40% × two × 1.2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided to the voters</li> </ul>

○ Face shields (182,840 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Twenty each per city/province and district("Gu/Si/Gun")</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For operation room for counting stations, staff responsible for fever checks, and public service</li> </ul>
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Number of early polling station staff × two days × 0.3 × 1.1</b></li> <li><b>Number of polling station staff × 0.4 × 1.1</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For polling station staff responsible for fever checks and temporary polling booths (around 3)</li> </ul>
Counting Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Number of counting station staff × 1.1</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For all the counting staff</li> </ul>

○ Type 4 protective clothing (14,330 in total)

Category	Distribution Guidelines	Purpose
Polling Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>One per polling station</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For temporary polling station staff for self-quarantined voters</li> </ul>

## 6 Voters Education

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- ❑ **Announcement and promotion of the “Nationwide Guidelines on Voting”**
  - Announcement of the “Nationwide Guidelines on Voting” and enclosing it when distributing the voting guidelines to households and campaign materials to military and police
  - Posting the “Nationwide Guidelines on Voting” on multiple platforms such as the “ETV” (Korea Electoral Broadcasting System), NEC homepage, social media, and broadcasting and newspaper companies
- ❑ **Creating a promotional video for safe polling stations well-prepared for COVID-19 and using it for public relations**
  - Utilizing the video on Youtube channels to train polling clerks
  - Showcasing the disinfection process in the vicinities of the polling stations and voting procedures
  - Presenting temporary polling booth voting procedures for symptomatic voters

/End/

11 May 2020

# Korea's Evolving Response to COVID-19



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Korea

5<sup>th</sup> Edition

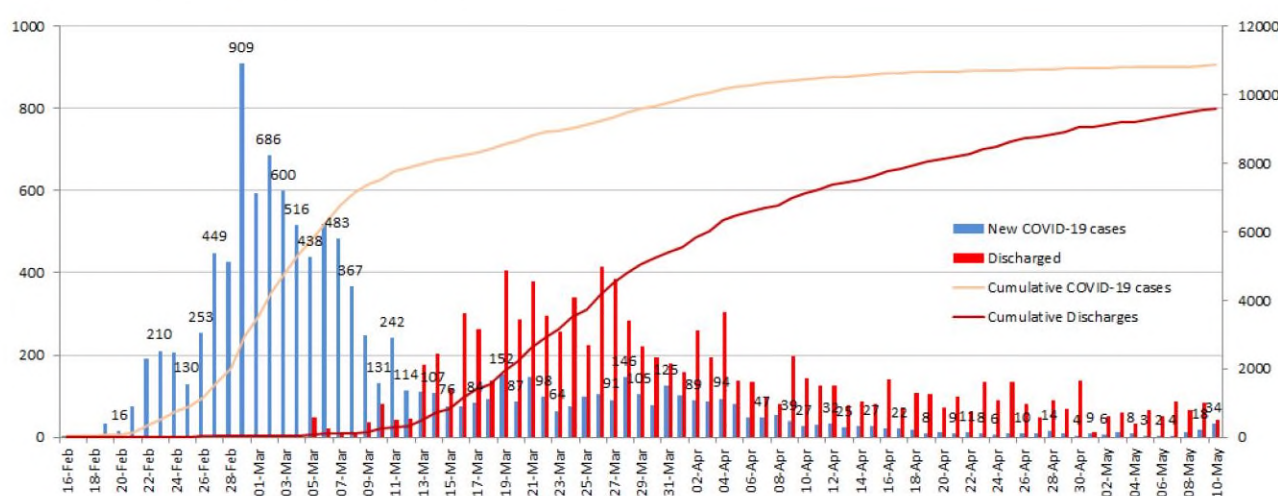
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## 1. COVID-19 Situation in Korea

- The COVID-19 epidemic in Korea has seen a significant slowdown in newly confirmed cases for some time. After peaking at 909 on 29 February, the number of new cases per day has steadily declined to double digits on 15 March and eventually to single digit on 19 April. The average number of new cases per day had fallen to 6.4 in the first week of May. Since mid-March, the daily number of patients who had fully recovered, tested negative and discharged from hospitals or treatment centers has far outpaced that of the newly confirmed cases. Currently, nearly 90% of all confirmed cases have fully recovered.

Figure 1: Covid-19 Situation in Korea



- Despite the encouraging trend, we have remained vigilant against sporadic group/community transmissions in different parts of the country, as well as the steady number of confirmed cases among inbound travelers. Recently, after the consecutive public holidays from 30 April to 5 May and the relaxation of social-distancing measures on 6 May, we have been guarding against the possibility of another surge of infections. Indeed, just after the holidays, the daily number of new infections has spiked to double digits, due to group infections centered around a few clubs – nighttime entertainment establishments with dancing – in a district in Seoul. This is especially worrisome as new infections originating from this source are being found around the country, not just Seoul.
- We are strengthening our preparedness for a possible second wave of the epidemic and beyond for the long haul. We have continued to adapt our countermeasures, control strategies, and preparedness in response to the evolving nature of the epidemic. The measures currently in effect and outlined in this paper are the outcome of whole-of-government deliberation and decision to enhance and fine-tune our response to COVID-19. This paper should be read as an update, extension and addition to the previous versions.

## 2. Korea's Evolving Response to COVID-19

- Our response to COVID-19 has been fine-tuned and rolled out in phases against the multiplying sources of risk so as to minimize the detrimental impacts on livelihoods, the economy and our interaction with the world. While doing so, we have remained fully committed to the principles of openness, transparency, and civic engagement.

### 2.1. Openness

#### 2.1.1. Keeping Borders Open

- In adherence to WHO recommendations, we have managed the risk associated with cross-border traffic not with blanket entry bans but with continuous adaptation and fine-tuning of measures designed to control and keep track of inbound travelers and the virus that some of them may be carrying in. These measures have been phased in, corresponding to shifting location of concentrated virus outbreaks.
- ◆ **(Phase I: Special Entry Procedure and Self-Health Check Mobile App)** In the early stages of the COVID-19 epidemic, travelers from only a select number of affected countries, determined by a number of factors such as their geographical proximity to Korea, size of inbound traffic and potential risk, were subject to the Special Entry Procedure and Self-health check Mobile App – measures designed to effectively monitor the health of inbound travelers for 14 days after arrival. In response to the declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, all travelers entering Korea from abroad, regardless of nationality, became subject to these measures from 19 March.
- ◆ **(Phase II: Mandatory COVID-19 Testing of Inbound Travelers from Highly Affected Regions)** In response to the increasing influx into Korea of COVID-19 cases from overseas, COVID-19 testing was made mandatory for all inbound travelers from Europe on 22 March. (Mandatory testing was extended to all inbound travelers from the United States starting 15 April.) All found negative were required to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- ◆ **(Phase III: Mandatory Quarantine for All Inbound Travelers)** To cope with the increasing risk from the pandemic spreading to many other regions of the world, the 14-day quarantine has been made mandatory for all inbound travelers from 1 April, either at home or at government-hosted facilities. But waivers from the quarantine can be obtained at Korean Embassy/Consulate prior to departure.
- ◆ **(Phase IV: Suspension of Visa-free Entry and Visa Waiver Programs)** With imported cases of COVID-19 accounting for an increasingly large portion of new infections in Korea, visa-free entry and visa-waiver programs have been suspended

on 13 April. Countries that have not imposed entry bans on travelers from Korea have been exempt from this measure. All inbound travelers are required to download the 'self-quarantine safety protection app' on their smartphones which links them to their assigned government case officials, and submit self-health check reports twice daily on the app. The case officials are notified to take appropriate measures if self-health check reports are not submitted, travelers report symptoms, or self-quarantine is broken.

- ◆ **(Phase V: Mandatory COVID-19 Testing of All Inbound Travelers)** Finding a large portion (72%) of newly confirmed cases among recent overseas travelers over the past two weeks (25 April to 8 May), COVID-19 testing has been made mandatory for all inbound travelers starting 11 May. In keeping with Phase III measures, they are still required to undergo 14 day self-quarantine.
- Instead of closing the border, measures that restrict inbound traffic were introduced in phases in proportion to the public health risk, and the countries to be affected were notified in advance.
- ◆ Furthermore, the door has been kept open for essential travel, i.e. holders of A1 (Diplomatic), A2 (Official) and A3 (Treaties) visas, and those who have been issued a 'self-quarantine waiver' at a Korean Embassy/Consulate prior to departure on grounds of business, medical, scientific and humanitarian purposes. These travelers are tested for COVID-19 upon arrival, and if tested negative, subject to active monitoring scheme which includes daily submission of health conditions via a 'Self Health-Check App' and answering daily phone calls from health authorities throughout their stay in Korea.
- ◆ In recent weeks, however, a few COVID-19 positive cases have been found among holders of A1, A2, or A3 Visas. In this connection, the Korean Government has issued a strong recommendation to the diplomatic community that holders of these types of Visas voluntarily quarantine themselves at home during the active monitoring period.
- The Korean government has also been working with various countries to enable entry of Koreans with compelling reasons to travel, especially for business purposes. As a result, more than 4,200 Korean business people so far have been given special entry permissions overseas.
- ◆ More recently, Korea and the People's Republic of China have agreed on a 'fast track procedure (a streamlined arrival system)' to facilitate business travel between the two countries. This is expected to ease health screening and quarantine measures<sup>1</sup> for business personnel of the two countries, starting 1 May. We are working to set up similar arrangements with other close economic partners.

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<sup>1</sup> Korean business personnel are required to conduct self health-monitoring for 14 days and be tested for COVID-19 72 hours before departure. After arrival, business personnel are required to

### 2.1.2. Keeping Society Open through 3T(Test, Trace and Treat)

- The Korean Government and local administrations have worked together in close concert with civil society to preserve the openness in the daily life of the people with minimal interference in their freedom of movement. Without resorting to lockdowns, blockades, suspension of public transportation or other large-scale restrictions, even at the height of the epidemic centered around Daegu/North Gyeongsang Province, we have managed to contain COVID-19.
- ◆ Central to this has been our strategy that consists of robust testing to confirm positive cases; rigorous tracing of their contacts to prevent further spread; and treatment of those infected at the earliest possible stage. Wide-scale testing led to quick confirmation and isolation of positive cases. Epidemiological teams<sup>2</sup> aided by tracing tools led to speedy identification and quarantine of their contacts. Early treatment of patients adapted to different levels of symptoms has led to high recovery and low fatality rates.
- ◆ Restriction on the freedom of movement of the patients and their close contacts has been imperative in preventing the further spread of the virus and preserving the freedom of movement for the rest of society. Making public the anonymized information about the trajectory of the confirmed patients during the period of potential contagion has been instrumental in alerting the public about the spreading risk and advising them about getting tested.
- ◆ In response to rising cases of violations of self-quarantine measures, electronic wristbands were introduced as of 27 April. This measure applies to those who break self-quarantine. The violator is given the choice of either wearing the electronic wristband or staying at a designated quarantine facility for the remainder of the quarantine period.
- **(Testing)** As COVID-19 infections can show little or no symptoms, we have prioritized early detection through preemptive diagnostic screening and rigorous

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stay at a designated center for one to two days while undergoing COVID-19 tests (both PCR and blood serum test), and be allowed to engage in business activities if found negative on both tests. This procedure will first be implemented in ten regions in China with strong bilateral economic ties. Similar procedures (testing 72 hours before departure and after arrival) apply for Chinese nationals on business travel to Korea.

<sup>2</sup> In dealing with COVID-19, Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tripled its initial 10 Emergency Response Epidemiological Teams composed of epidemiological investigators, quarantine officers and medical professionals to 30 teams. Local governments appointed their own ad-hoc Epidemiological Investigative Teams composed of medical professionals. The central and local teams work in close collaboration.

epidemiological investigations. Our testing capacity of up to 20,000 tests per day was utilized at near full-capacity during the peak of the epidemic and has recently fallen to a few thousand per day. As of 10 May, we have conducted over 660,000 tests in total.

- ◆ The efficiency of this testing capacity was enhanced through the innovative drive-through and walk-through screening stations, which provided convenient access to sample-collection for the public while maximizing the safety of medical workers and healthcare institutions.

Figure 2: Drive-through and Walk-through Screening Stations in Operation



- **(Tracing)** In tracing the close contacts of the confirmed cases, we have utilized their credit card transaction history, CCTV footage, and mobile phone GPS data when necessary in accordance with our domestic law. On 26 March, the government launched the COVID-19 Epidemiological Investigation Support System, a centralized data collection and multi-agency coordination platform. The system has upgraded the method of contact tracing from manual analysis by epidemiological investigators to automatic analysis, thus significantly reducing the time needed for each case analysis from 24 hours to ten minutes.
- ◆ Information pertinent to preventing spread of COVID-19 is anonymized and disclosed to the public with due care to protect personal information, so that those who may have crossed paths with confirmed cases can get themselves tested. Contacts identified through the epidemiological investigations are tested for COVID-19, put under self-quarantine and monitored on a one-on-one basis by assigned public health officials.
- ◆ **(Privacy Considerations)** The legal framework for our current contact-tracing methods was established in the aftermaths of the MERS outbreak in 2015 by amending the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act to allow health authorities to collect data on persons infected or likely to be infected by infectious diseases and to ensure the public's right to know<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act Article 6 (Duties and Rights of Citizens) (2) Citizens shall have the right to know information on the situation of the outbreak of infectious diseases and the prevention and control of infectious diseases and how to cope therewith, and the State and local governments shall promptly disclose the relevant information.

Putting the law into practice in response to COVID-19 gave rise to concerns that the information released to the public may be overly specific and detrimental to the privacy of the patients. To address such concerns, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laid down guidelines on the time frame (maximum of 14 days)<sup>4</sup> and scope<sup>5</sup> of publicly accessible information.

Recently, the central Government has begun working in collaboration with local administrations and the Korea Communications Commission to remove the expired contact movement information from social media, private websites and privately developed apps.

- **(Treatment)** As a result of early detection and treatment, COVID-19 case fatality rate in Korea has been kept relatively low at 2.35% (as of 10 May), and most of the related deaths have been either among the elderly or those with existing medical conditions.
- ◆ To secure hospital beds necessary for treatment, we have designated 67 ‘infectious disease hospitals’ to accommodate exclusively COVID-19 patients, and transferred their existing inpatients to other institutions. Also, to prioritize medical resources to those in need of treatment, we established a Patient Management System comprised of a network of medical professionals that categorizes COVID-19 patients into four groups of mild, moderate, severe and extremely severe according to the severity of their symptoms.
- ◆ Patients with mild symptoms with little need for medical care, which account for approximately 80% of all confirmed patients, have been accommodated under quarantine in temporarily repurposed corporate and public training facilities (called ‘Community Treatment Centers<sup>6</sup>’), and monitored by healthcare staff at least twice a day for symptoms. Those that develop more serious symptoms requiring medical

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<sup>4</sup> If symptomatic, one day before the onset of symptoms until the date of quarantine and if asymptomatic, one day before the date of testing until the date of quarantine. All information is erased after 14 days from the last contact exposure.

<sup>5</sup> Anonymized information regarding the movement of confirmed cases, i.e. location and/or transportation information with time logs, when contacts with confirmed cases have occurred. Information may be withheld if all contacts have been identified. Workplace information may be disclosed when a significant number of random individuals may have come into contact.

<sup>6</sup> The decision to establish the first Community Treatment Centers in Daegu/North Gyeongsang Province was crucial to preventing the medical facilities in the region from being overwhelmed. Since then, a total of 16 ‘Community Treatment Centers’, with capacity to hold up to 3,818 patients were established and operated across the country (2 March ~ 30 April). The highest number of accommodated patients was 2,796 on 14 March. To prepare for a possible second wave of infections, the Korean government plans on drafting a guideline based on our experiences so far for the establishment and operation of community treatment centers that includes finding and repurposing new facilities, recruiting medical staff, etc.

intervention are promptly put under hospital care, and those diagnosed as fully recovered according to relevant standards are discharged.

- ◆ Patients in the other three categories of severity are immediately put under hospital care in national infectious disease hospitals or other government-designated medical institutions. Through these measures, the healthcare authorities were able to relieve the pressure on finite medical resources.

## 2.2. Transparency

- The Korean government is fully committed to prompt and transparent sharing of information on developments in our COVID-19 situation and government policy, both domestically and internationally. Our domestic law (Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act) ensures the public's right to be informed on the latest developments and responses to outbreaks and infection control.
- ◆ Since day one, press briefings have been held twice a day, by the Minister/Vice Minister of Health on behalf of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters in the morning and by the Director/Vice Director of KCDC (Korea Center for Disease Control) in the afternoon<sup>7</sup>. Regular press releases that cover a wide range of information including the number of confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19, number of tests performed, regional distribution of confirmed cases, epidemiological links, number of contacts under quarantine, number of discharged cases, and other statistics are also provided in English daily ([www.cdc.go.kr/cdc\\_eng/](http://www.cdc.go.kr/cdc_eng/) and [ncov.mohw.go.kr/en](http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/en)).
- ◆ Our many sectoral government guidelines on COVID-19, compiled and updated regularly by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Ministry of Health and Welfare, have been made available online.
- ◆ In March, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Health Insurance Review & Assessment Service has decided to share de-identified nationwide COVID-19 patient data with both domestic and international researchers in the #opendata4covid19 project to support international collaboration.
- Our past experience with the MERS epidemic in 2015 made clear that public trust in the government is crucial in garnering civic engagement and participation in response against infectious disease, and the trust can be earned only by keeping the public fully

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<sup>7</sup> These briefings are live-streamed through the internet with simultaneous interpretation into English for international viewers ([www.arirang.com](http://www.arirang.com) at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm daily).

informed. The government has shared with the public every detail on the nature and spread of the epidemic.

- ◆ Full disclosure has also been made of the Government's actions and plans. We did not waiver in this commitment to transparency even when faced with difficult issues that generated much public frustration and criticism, e.g. the shortage of face masks at the early stage of the epidemic. The full disclosure by the Government has in turn rallied the public to join in the efforts to find better solutions.

### **2.3. Civic Engagement**

- Flattening the curve on COVID-19 epidemic in Korea has relied heavily on civic engagement, participation, and partnership with the people. The public as a whole adhered to personal hygiene measures such as wearing face masks, complied with self-quarantine measures, and maintained social-distancing.
- ◆ Public participation has also materialized into civic activism nationwide in the form of volunteering for response efforts in the hard-hit areas, as well as supporting vulnerable communities that are likely to be overlooked, such as undocumented foreign workers<sup>8</sup>. In April, nearly 2 million face masks were distributed to undocumented foreign workers through 46 civic organizations.
- The partnership between the public and the government led to the development of innovative response measures. The public provided a vast reservoir of expertise, creativity and innovation, and in turn the government mobilized, supported and institutionalized the public's inputs.
- ◆ A notable example is the drive-through and walk-through screening stations that significantly reduced time involved in sample-taking while limiting exposure of front-line medical workers as well as among those that are waiting to be tested. Both methods were pioneered first by Korea's medical community, and then quickly adopted, standardized and scaled up by the government. They have now been introduced in one form or another in many other countries.
- ◆ When face masks were in short supply and the series of government measures to assure even distribution fell short of public demand, again the medical community came up with the idea of utilizing pharmacies, already equipped with national databases that can prevent duplicate purchases. The idea was quickly adopted by the

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<sup>8</sup> Addressing concerns of possible infections among undocumented foreign workers, the government put in measures to ensure their access to testing and medical services without fear of deportation.

government to roll out a two-per-person-per-week purchasing scheme. The scheme was recently eased to three masks per person in light of the increased domestic production capacity.

- ◆ Using open government data, developers and startups in the private sector have also mobilized to create hundreds of apps and websites that have helped to track the spread of the virus, alert users to potential risks areas, and indicate available stock of face masks in pharmacies and other retailers nationwide.

### **3. Whole-of-Government Adaptive Approach**

- Since 23 February when the health alert for COVID-19 was upgraded to the highest (“serious”) level in the face of the massive outbreak in Daegu, the Korean Government has maintained a concerted whole-of-government approach. The Prime Minister chairs the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure (CDSC) Headquarters Meeting, comprising all relevant ministries of the central government as well as the seventeen provinces and major cities.
- ◆ Korea is a highly devolved country where City Mayors and Provincial Governors are directly elected by the citizens. Mobilizing their resources and responsibilities has been crucial in the fight against COVID-19. The CDSC Headquarters Meeting has convened seven days a week since late February with very few exceptions such as the day of the nationwide elections. Since late April, the Minister for Health and Welfare has begun to chair the committee meetings twice a week for in-depth discussions, once among the 23 Ministries and once among the 17 Provinces and Cities. Additional ad-hoc meetings are held when necessary. The format and frequency of these meetings has evolved in response to the challenge at hand.
- ◆ This daily conversation at the highest level between the central and local governments has been crucial to identifying problems and blockages and finding solutions, and ensuring that the solutions are implemented and adjusted as needed. With this approach, we were able to effectively utilize the medical resources around the country. For example, when the cases were soaring in Daegu/North Gyeongsang Province, many patients were transferred to other cities/provinces for intensive care.
- ◆ Also, the close collaboration and division of labor between the central and local officials has been instrumental in the effective management of self-quarantine cases, which now consists largely of recent inbound travelers. The Ministry of Defense has provided much needed human resources - from doctors and nurses to fumigation teams and guards at testing sites.

- ◆ Increasingly, the CDSC discussion has been about ensuring that the series of economic stimulus and support packages that are being rolled out promptly reach their beneficiaries. This includes the cash payment scheme for all households, which has been adopted for the first time in the country's constitutional history. This concerted, adaptive approach will remain central in our collective efforts to overcome the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19.

#### 4. Holding Nationwide Elections

- Korea held its nationwide legislative elections on 15 April as scheduled. Most pressing concern was that massive mobilization of people and resources necessary for carrying out nationwide elections may possibly spread the epidemic. There were also concerns over the inability to properly conduct political campaigns with social distancing measures in place and potential low voter turn-out.
- ◆ In preparation for the elections, the National Elections Commission (NEC) worked together with other relevant government ministries to draft detailed operating procedures for safe voting and ballot counting. Voting procedures for patients as well as persons under self-quarantine were also outlined. Guidelines<sup>9</sup> for voters to follow on Election Day was also drafted and widely circulated prior to the elections.
- ◆ The total voter turnout was 66.2% (over 29 million voters), the highest record for parliamentary elections in 28 years. A record of 26.7% of voters cast their ballots through absentee (early in-person on 10-11 April) voting, contributing to the highest voter turnout. As of 10 May, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has yet to confirm a COVID-19 infection that stems from the election-related activities.
- **(Voting Methods)** Korea's legislative election system offers five methods of voting.  
① In-person voting on Election Day, designated as a public holiday to encourage voter turn-out, requires voters to cast their ballots at their registered constituency. All other methods of voting are conducted prior to Election Day following specific schedules.  
② Absentee voting (early in-person voting) allows voters to cast their ballots at any polling station across the country over a two-day period starting five days before

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<sup>9</sup> ① Prepare official identification document beforehand, ② Refrain from bringing young children, ③ Wash hands under running water for at least 30 seconds with soap and water before arriving at polling station, ④ Wear a face mask, ⑤ Get a fever check at the entrance of the polling station, apply hand sanitizer and put on plastic gloves, ⑥ Maintain at least 1m distance between voters, ⑦ Refrain from engaging in non-essential conversation, ⑧ Pull face mask down briefly during identification check, ⑨ If found to have a fever, vote at a designated booth separate from other voters, and visit a healthcare center, ⑩ Wash hands under running water for at least 30 seconds with soap upon returning home.

Election Day. ③Voting-by-mail is offered to those unable to vote in-person for reasons such as disability, hospitalization, or detention. ④Shipboard voting by fax is offered to voters on deep-sea fishing or passenger vessels. ⑤Overseas voting is offered for overseas residents or pre-registered temporary visitors at polling stations set up at Korean Embassies and Consulates. Detailed operating procedures for each of the voting methods were drafted to ensure the safety of the electorate, government staff, volunteers and all others involved in the elections.

- **(In-person Voting : Absentee and Election Day)** All voters were required to wear face masks and maintain at least one meter distance from other voters when standing in line according to pre-spaced markings on the floor. At the entrance of the polling station, all voters were checked for fevers using non-contact thermometers. Those with normal temperatures were then required to use hand sanitizers and to wear disposable plastic gloves. Election officials conducting identification checks, when necessary, asked voters to briefly pull down their face masks to verify identity by photo comparison. After casting their votes, the voters remove their plastic gloves on their way out and place them in a collection bin.
  - ◆ If a voter has been checked to have a fever of over 37.5°C upon arrival at the polling station, the voter was escorted through a slightly altered voting process designed to minimize chance of spreading an infection. After identity verification, an election official signed the voter registration list in lieu of the voter and also recorded that the voter has displayed fever. The voter was then escorted to a separate polling booth set up in a well-ventilated location, and provided with a ballot and a designated ballot envelope. After casting the vote, the voter places the ballot in the designated envelope, and hand it over to an election official tasked to carry and place it into the ballot box with an observer present throughout the process. Finally, the polling booth and voting equipment such as stamps will be disinfected, and the area ventilated. Voters with fevers have been asked to visit a nearby healthcare center for COVID-19 testing.
- **(COVID-19 Patients)** Voting-by-mail has been made accessible for COVID-19 patients in hospitals and community-treatment centers subject to pre-registration (24 March to 28 March). Instruction packets containing information on voter pre-registration and voting-by-mail procedures were distributed to hospitals and community-treatment centers. The registered voters received their ballots in mail, cast their votes while wearing face masks and plastic gloves, and post their ballots using enclosed return envelopes.
  - ◆ To ensure the right to vote of COVID-19 patients diagnosed after the pre-registration period has expired (28 March), those newly diagnosed after the date of expiry were

placed in eight designated community-treatment centers. At each of those centers, special advance in-person polling stations were set up and operated for one day during the absentee voting period (10 April-11 April). Measures were put in place to ensure that one patient goes through the voting process at a given time, and paths do not cross between patients during voting. Election officials and clerks wore level-D protective gear. All materials and equipment involved in the voting process were either destroyed or disinfected on-site before transferring to another location. A total of 147 COVID-19 patients along with 299 medical personnel in eight community-treatment centers exercised their right to vote by this method.

- **(Persons under Self-Quarantine)** Close contacts of confirmed patients and recent returnees from overseas under government-monitored self-quarantine were given a specific time window on election day to visit polling stations after voting has closed for the general public, while being mandated to report their movements to their assigned government officials. The voters in this category were permitted to vote if they were able to commute to their assigned polling stations from their places of residence within 30 minutes of one-way trip either by car, which needed to be driven alone, or on foot. A total of 11,151 persons under self-quarantine exercised their right to vote.

## 5. Opening Schools

- **(On-line Opening)** As the academic year in Korea begins in early March, scheduled opening of schools coincided with the peak of the COVID-19 epidemic. Taking stock of the situation, the Ministry of Education made a series of decisions to postpone the start date. It decided to open schools on-line in phases starting with the final grades in middle and high schools on 9 April, and completing with three lower grades in elementary schools on 20 April. The on-line opening aimed to balance the need for education for the students with social distancing measures in place, but came with novel challenges to ensure students' access to technology at home while maintaining a high-quality of learning experience.
- ◆ The Ministry of Education worked together with Metropolitan and Provincial Offices of Education to lend 316,000 digital devices to students in low-income households. The Ministry of Science and ICT in collaboration with telecommunications companies supported swift installation of internet in households where needed, and subscription fees are being covered by local governments. The Ministry of Science and ICT has also spearheaded efforts to allow free access to online education platforms such as Korea Educational Broadcasting System (EBS) website and unlimited data access to online educational platforms including digital textbook and e-learning sites.
- ◆ To enhance on-line teaching capacity of teachers nationwide, a network platform of 'a community of 10,000 teachers (one representative teacher appointed from each of

approximately 10,000 schools nationwide)' was formed so that they may share experiences and collaborate in finding solutions to common problems that may arise in the course of the unprecedented on-line schooling.

- **(Phased Opening)** Following the decision of 3 May to transition from 'strengthened social distancing' to 'distancing in everyday life' measures as of 6 May, the Ministry of Education announced plans to open schools in four phases starting with the final grade of high-school on 13 May, and all other grades in three phases starting on 20 May, 27 May and 1 June respectively. In light of the latest spike in new infections, the Ministry of Education decided on 11 May to push back the opening of schools one week for all grades. Detailed guidelines are being prepared and will include measures to minimize the risk of spreading the virus such as wearing of face masks, fever-checks, distancing in the classrooms and cafeteria, dispersing of movement of students, and most importantly, staying home when displaying symptoms.

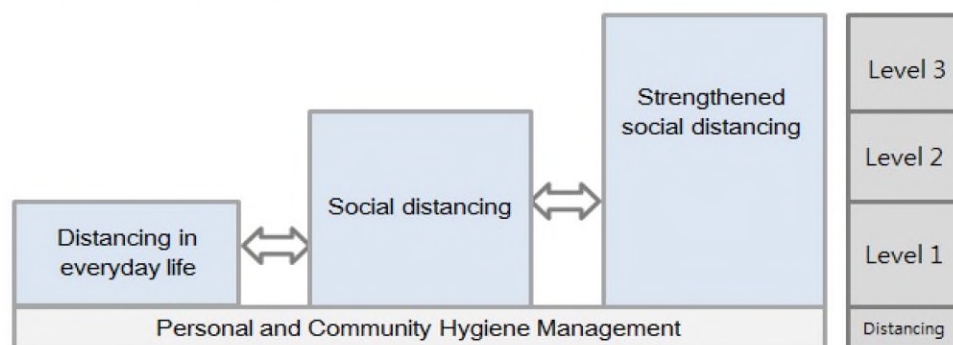
Table 1: Phased Schedule of School Openings

Start Date	High School	Middle School	(Pre)Elementary
13 May → 20 May	Grade 3		
20 May → 27 May	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 1, 2 / Pre-Elementary
27 May → 3 June	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3, 4
1 June → 8 June		Grade 1	Grade 5, 6

## 6. Social Distancing

- Social distancing measures in Korea, first introduced on 29 February, has been continually adapted and adjusted in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation at hand.

Figure 3: Social Distancing Measures



- Initial social distancing measures (29 February – 21 March) advised the general public to avoid gathering in groups and keep spaces between people. Strengthened social distancing measures, first introduced on 22 March for fifteen days and then renewed on 6 April for another two weeks, advised the general public to practice enhanced social distancing measures by staying home as much as possible and urged high-risk

facilities (religious, indoor sports and entertainment facilities) to suspend operations. Following an optimistic turn in the COVID-19 situation, these measures were partially relaxed on 20 April to allow opening of low-risk facilities that operate outdoors (ex. sports facilities) or those where user movements may sufficiently be dispersed (ex. museums).

- Starting 6 May, social distancing has transitioned to a ‘distancing in everyday life’ scheme. In preparation for this decision, an inter-ministerial taskforce and an ad-hoc ‘everyday life quarantine committee’ composed of infectious disease control/medical experts, economists, representatives of civil society, and government officials were formed in mid-April and convened regularly thereafter to discuss when and how to relax social distancing measures. Detailed guidelines were drafted, initial versions made public, feedback collected, and then finalized by the ad-hoc committee over the course of three weeks.
- ◆ The risk involved in the transition was analyzed by taking into consideration the stabilizing trend in COVID-19 epidemic, possibility of another wave of infections stemming from the long stretch of public holidays from 30 April to 5 May, and the public’s weariness<sup>10</sup> from social-distancing measures. Through whole-of-government deliberations, it was decided that although not without risk, the time has come to transition into a form of social distancing that is sustainable for the long run.
- ◆ Two tiers of ‘distancing in everyday life’ guidelines have been finalized: a ‘personal guideline’ and a ‘community guideline’.

The ‘personal guideline’ outlines code of conduct for individuals such as staying home for 3-4 days when feeling sick, washing hands, coughing into elbows, and ventilating homes at least twice daily. It also offers detailed procedural information on wearing of masks, disinfecting surroundings, caring for the elderly, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The ‘community guideline’ outlines basic codes of conduct for groups of people such as appointing a designated quarantine manager, implementing and complying with customized preventive measures for the group, and cooperating with the quarantine manager. It also contains 31 separate sub-guidelines drafted by 12 ministries on categories such as workplaces, public transportation, restaurants, wedding venues, funeral homes, religious facilities, hotels, zoos, public parks, public baths, libraries, theaters, museums, sports facilities, etc.

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<sup>10</sup> Analysis of big data showed that online phrases that indicate weariness among the public such as ‘having a hard time’ in relation to ‘social distancing measures’ appear five times as frequently in mid-April compared to early-April.

- The steadfast message of the Government to the public is that ‘distancing in everyday life’ is not a simple pull-back from social distancing and return to life before COVID-19, but rather the adoption of long-term changes that are needed to guard against a lurking danger that is likely to be around us for a long time. Depending on the COVID-19 situation, social distancing measures may be scaled up or down in the future as necessary.

## **7. Sharing and Learning: Call for Global Solidarity**

- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global crisis with far reaching impact. It has triggered widespread closing of borders, severely undermined global mobility of people and goods, disrupted global supply and distribution networks, and spread panic and fear. While the number of new cases is declining in some parts of the world, it is mounting in others. Some are beginning to pursue exit strategies and roll-back of measures, while others are strengthening theirs. Some are doing both. For those that seem to have flattened the curve, the chances of the trend going into reserve cannot be ruled out. Flattened curves can spike again when complacency sets in, and a second wave of infections is a real possibility.
- Korea has been one of the first countries to be hit by COVID-19 pandemic, and the experience and knowhow we have gained so far in coming to grips with the virus may be instructive and useful to others. We are also learning from and pooling knowledge with others, as infectious disease experts around the world warn that there is still much to discover about how the virus harms and spreads.
  - ◆ While they are pulling their expertise together across borders to better understand the virus, they are also working intensely with researchers and pharmaceutical companies to develop effective treatments and vaccines. In order to intensify our part of this global endeavor, the Korean government formed a high-level committee co-chaired by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Science and Technology to accelerate and support the efforts of domestic researchers and developers.
- To systematically respond to the growing calls for cooperation, we have formed an inter-ministerial Task Force headed by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. The TF oversees two streams of work: 1) meeting overseas demands for our medical equipment and supplies and 2) organizing knowledge-sharing events.
  - ◆ In the first, we are endeavoring to meet requests for humanitarian assistance as well as to link up the domestic producers of test kits and medical equipment with foreign governments that wish to purchase them. As for facial masks, an export ban has been in place since late March given the lingering shortage in meeting the domestic

demand. But beginning in early May, with the shortage easing, we are making exceptions for humanitarian purposes.

- ◆ In the second, we are organizing web seminars and video conferences with foreign partners and preparing fact sheets to share on a selection of COVID-19 related issues such as crisis management strategy, diagnostic and epidemiological study, treatment methods and patient management, border control and airport management, and broader policy matters such as elections, education and economic recovery.
- We are also actively engaging in bilateral and multilateral dialogues on COVID-19 with many countries at various levels and areas of expertise. Some of them have been built around existing institutions such as the UN, WHO, G20, ASEAN and MIKTA. Others have been initiated informally in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis among like-minded countries.
- In response to COVID-19 many countries turned inward to shield themselves from the virus. Blanket entry bans and suspension of international traffic swept around the globe, and these remain largely in place as of mid-May. The effectiveness of these measures balanced against the socio-economic costs will vary, and when and how they may be eased or lifted are decisions for governments to make. But as a country that has endeavored to keep our borders open and preserve the free movement of people during this pandemic, we hope our people-to-people exchanges across borders will soon become active and fulsome again.
- In the meantime, we should all work together to enable essential travel of officials, medical experts, business people, urgent family visits, etc. to proceed. They are the vital links on which to build the global solidarity required to overcome the devastation of COVID-19. No country will be fully safe before the world as a whole is safely protected from the virus. We hope the long-term legacy of COVID-19 to be one of global solidarity and better preparedness for the future.

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